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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Greece

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Political Developments in Greece

DIST. 15 November 1946

PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. A [REDACTED] reports that King George of Greece and the British Embassy plan to replace Tsaldaris with a non-political service government by the end of the year and to have elections held in the spring of 1947, following the anticipated conclusion of the peace treaties. Kyzrou, the editor of the royalist paper "Estia", is aware of this plan but there is no indication that the republican center knows of it.

2. [REDACTED] do not expect the present government to last more than two months. A [REDACTED] who is a responsible member of the present government believes that the government's fumbling of economic matters will be the major cause of its early fall. Sofoulis will then take over with a coalition cabinet until new elections are held. Lambrakis, editor of the liberal paper, "Vima", is backing Sofoulis, Tsouderos and Svolos. It is reported that Lambrakis will urge the inclusion of Tsirimokos and Askoutsis in the Sofoulis Cabinet as the only way to neutralize the two extremes.

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NOTE:

Elias F. Tsirimokos, a lawyer and former deputy, was one of the founders of PEEA, and Minister of Justice, Finance, and Social Welfare in PEEA. He was included in the Papandreu Cabinet with four other left-wing members. In December 1944, he resigned from the Cabinet in protest against the Varkiza Agreement. In May 1944, his party, ELD (Greek Popular Democracy), merged with SKE (Socialist Party of Greece), forming a leftist coalition.

Nikolaos Askoutsis, former Governor-General of Crete, was in 1941 one of the original members of EAM. He became Minister of Communications in PEEA, and was one of the six left-wing members of EAM included in the Cabinet of the Government in Exile. He resigned in December 1944. Following the December insurrection and the subsequent reorganization within EAM, he helped form the coalition between ELD and SKE.

3. An important Communist Party member who recently returned to Athens from areas in northern Greece where leftist bands are active, expects an intensification of such activity unless a government including the Left is formed.

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